

Appl. No.: 09/254,032

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#### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The recent telephone interview with Examiner Wax is acknowledged with appreciation.

In this response, independent Claim 1 has been amended in the manner discussed with the Examiner and as suggested by the Examiner in the previous Official Action. More specifically, Claim 1 is now directed to a composition consisting of the specified antigen. As such, the claim is clearly directed to a homogeneous composition, as distinguished from the heterogeneous mixture of polypeptides of different sequences as described in the cited Simon publication.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, along with the claims that are dependent directly or indirectly from Claim 1.

In addition, Claim 5 has been amended from a "use" claim to a method claim. Support for the added language can be found in the original claims of record.

Claims 7-19 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 7-12 are dependent from claims which should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these claims be rejoined and that they be formally allowed along with Claims 1-6.

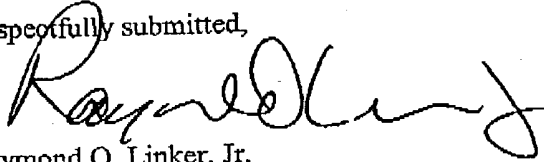
Claims 13-19 have also been withdrawn from consideration based upon an election requirement. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the election requirement, and to rejoin Claims 13-19. It should be evident that independent Claim 13 is allowable and distinguishes over the prior art for the same reasons previously given with respect to the claims under examination.

Accordingly, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration by the Examiner and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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Respectfully submitted,

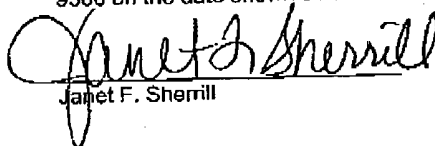


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Janet F. Sherrill

July 1, 2004  
Date